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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 19, 2003**

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# **PHOENIX WOMAN CHARGED WITH MISUSING SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER AND BANKRUPTCY FRAUD**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- On May 16, 2003, a criminal complaint was filed in United States District Court in Phoenix, Arizona, charging DOROTHEA LEWIS OIEN, DOB 8/11/48, of Phoenix, Arizona, with one count of Misuse of a Social Security Number and one count of Bankruptcy Fraud.

The affidavit of probable cause to the complaint alleges that OIEN adopted and used the Social Security Number assigned to another person, a woman in her 80's, and ran up charges and debts in excess of \$200,000 using that social security number.

On 1/17/2003 OIEN filed Chapter 7 Bankruptcy in Phoenix, Arizona. In the bankruptcy filing, OIEN provided the victim's social security number and had listed as creditor accounts, the fraudulent accounts the victim identified on her credit report. The statements on the Bankruptcy Petition were made under the penalty of perjury.

The fraud was discovered when the victim received notice from a collection agency that she was past due on rent at Northwood Apartment Homes in the amount of \$1,789.46. The victim never resided at the

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Northwood Apartment Homes. The victim then obtained a credit report and discovered the extent of the fraud. OIEN was arrested May 16, 2003.

The federal complaint charges OIEN with violating Title 42 of the United States Code, Section 408(a)(7)(B), Misuse of a Social Security Number, and Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 152, Bankruptcy Fraud. The Assistant United States Attorney, Daniel Drake who is handling this case states, "the way the victim responded in this instance is the way others should if they suspect identity theft; check your credit report to find out what is happening."

A conviction for each offense carries a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine or both.

An complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted the United States Secret Service and the Social Security Administration-Office of Inspector General.

The prosecution is being handled by Daniel R. Drake, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: 03-3128 M  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-095

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